GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
LITERACY RATE IN RURAL URBAN AREAS
DUKHA BHAGAT;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY;THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of literacy rate of male and female in rural and urban areas of the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the literacy rate has gone up in rural areas in comparison with urban areas;

(c) if so, factual position in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the popularity of literacy, particularly in the rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) The literacy rate amongst male and female in rural and urban areas according to the 1991 Census, National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-1999 and 2001 Census (provisional) is as under: -

(in percentages)

	1991		1998-99		2001	
Area	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Rural	57.87	30.62	69.5	43.7	71.4	46.7
Urban	81.09	64.05	87.5	72.1	86.7	73.2

The State-wise male and female literacy rates available in Census reports 1991 and 2001 is given in statement enclosed.

(b & c) Yes, Sir. The factual position is as follows:-

(in percentages)

Area	1991	1998-99	2001
Rural	44.69	56.7	59.4
Urban	73.08	80.1	80.3

(d) The steps taken are as follows: -

(1) A new scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been started for Universalization of Elementary Education in a mission mode

with a district focus. SSA is to provide useful and relevant Elementary Education for all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010. The goals are as follows:

i) All children in school, Education Guarantee Scheme center, Alternate school, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003.

ii) All children complete five-year primary education by 2007.

iii) All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.

iv) Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;

v) Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;

vi) Universal retention by 2010.

(2) National Literacy Mission (NLM) seeks to attain full literacy, i.e. sustainable threshold level of 75 percent by 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non-literate in 15-35 year age group. Major thrust of the programmes of the National Literacy Mission is on promotion of literacy among women, members belonging to SCs and STs particularly in rural areas. Steps taken to give greater thrust to remove illiteracy include revision of National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters and enhancement of financial norms, integration of the phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy, delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities, enlarging the scope of Continuing Education, strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthans and extending their activities in rural areas, revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching learning materials and improved quality of training.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 458 FOR 20.11.2001 BY SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT, PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT AND SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY REGARDING LITERACY RATE IN RURAL/URBAN AREAS

S. No.	India/States	AREAS	LITERACY RATE 1991 CENSUS		LITERACY RATE 2001 CENSUS	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
	INDIA	RURAL	57.87	30.62	71.4	46.7
		URBAN	81.09	64.05	86.7	73.2
1	Andhra Pradesh	RURAL	47.28	23.92	66.13	44.36
		URBAN	75.87	56.41	83.21	69.34
2	Arunchal Pradesh	RURAL	47.00	25.31	58.09	37.56
		URBAN	77.99	62.23	85.61	70.60
3	Assam	RURAL	58.66	39.19	69.02	52.25
		URBAN	84.37	73.32	89.88	81.03
4	Bihar	RURAL	48.31	17.95	57.70	30.03
		URBAN	77.72	55.94	80.80	63.30
5	Jharkhand	RURAL	-	-	61.57	30.33
		URBAN	-	-	87.73	70.71
6	Delhi	RURAL	78.46	52.15	87.15	68.23
		URBAN	82.39	68.54	87.38	75.49
7	Goa	RURAL	71.71	62.87	87.69	71.55
		URBAN	86.33	73.38	90.06	79.65
8	Gujarat	RURAL	66.84	38.65	70.71	45.75
		URBAN	84.56	67.70	85.46	72.23

9 Haryana	RURAL	64.78	32.51	76.13	49.77
	URBAN	81.96	64.06	86.58	72.05
10 Himachal Pradesh	RURAL	73.89	49.79	83.58	65.23
	URBAN	88.97	78.32	92.49	85.91
11 Karnataka	RURAL	60.30	34.76	70.63	48.50
	URBAN	82.04	65.74	86.85	74.87
12 Kerala	RURAL	92.91	85.12	93.54	86.79
	URBAN	95.58	89.06	96.07	90.87
13 Madhya Pradesh	RURAL	51.04	19.73	72.10	42.96
	URBAN	81.32	58.92	87.78	70.62
14 Chattisgarh	RURAL	-	-	74.58	47.41
	URBAN	-	-	89.87	71.63
15 Maharashtra	RURAL	69.74	40.96	82.17	59.12
	URBAN	86.41	70.87	91.42	79.25
16 Manipur	RURAL	67.64	43.26	74.50	55.88
	URBAN	82.11	58.67	88.72	71.47
17 Meghalaya	RURAL	44.83	37.12	59.90	54.02
	URBAN	85.72	77.32	89.90	84.30
18 Mizoram	RURAL	77.36	67.03	84.38	76.17
	URBAN	95.15	91.61	96.97	95.69
19 Nagaland	RURAL	63.42	50.36	67.73	57.87
	URBAN	85.94	79.10	89.01	82.09
20 Orissa	RURAL	60.00	30.79	73.57	47.22
	URBAN	81.21	61.18	88.32	72.68
21 Punjab	RURAL	60.71	43.85	71.70	57.91
	URBAN	77.26	66.12	82.97	74.63
22 Rajasthan	RURAL	47.64	11.59	72.96	37.74
	URBAN	78.50	50.24	87.10	65.42
23 Sikkim	RURAL	63.49	43.98	75.11	59.05
	URBAN	85.19	74.94	88.61	80.19
24 Tamil Nadu	RURAL	67.18	41.84	77.47	55.84
	URBAN	86.06	69.61	88.40	75.64
25 Tripura	RURAL	67.07	44.33	78.89	61.05
	URBAN	89.00	76.93	93.51	85.36
26 Uttar Pradesh	RURAL	52.05	19.02	68.01	37.74
	URBAN	69.98	50.38	78.13	62.05
27 Uttaranchal	RURAL	-	-	82.74	55.52
	URBAN	-	-	87.21	74.77
28 West Bengal	RURAL	62.05	38.12	73.75	53.82
	URBAN	81.19	68.25	86.49	76.14
29 A&N Islands	RURAL	75.99	61.99	83.90	72.23
	URBAN	86.59	75.08	90.35	81.65
30 Chandigarh	RURAL	65.67	47.83	81.54	67.17
	URBAN	84.09	74.57	86.16	77.53
31 D&N Haveli	RURAL	50.04	23.30	67.13	34.08
	URBAN	86.35	68.42	91.57	75.67
32 Daman & Diu	RURAL	75.23	46.70	86.48	63.31
	URBAN	91.14	72.35	92.72	79.14
33. Lakshadweep	RURAL	88.66	68.72	92.56	79.86
	URBAN	91.31	76.11	93.85	83.60
34 Pondicherry	RURAL	76.44	53.96	83.87	64.63
	URBAN	87.70	71.98	91.40	78.78
35 Jammu & Kashmir	RURAL	+	+	60.34	35.09
	URBAN	+	+	80.30	62.22

+ Excludes Jammu & Kashmir where 1991 census was not held.